

Acknowledgments

Overview

In January of 2003, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners retained Brauer & Associates, Ltd. to collaborate with county staff and local citizens to complete a comprehensive master plan for Spring Lake Park Reserve. This document represents the results of the planning process, which was completed in December, 2003.

Acknowledgments

The consultant team would like to thank Dakota County for undertaking an open and constructive public participation process for the project. This approach allowed for various perspectives to be considered on important planning issues that affected the master plan for the park. Through this process, it is believed that a responsible balance between human use of the park and its ecological protection was achieved.

The consultant team would also like to thank the Dakota County Parks and Recreation Commission and Dakota County Board for participating in this project. Their individual and collective insights were instrumental in drawing conclusions that are reasonable, responsible, and insightful.

The consultant team also extends a heartfelt thank you to the Dakota County staff, especially the project management team. The openness with which they approached this project paved the way for a constructive public process that considered all opinions to be of equal merit and worthy of due consideration. Their understanding of the larger regional context, pressing park needs, and how Spring Lake Park Reserve fits into the larger regional park picture proved to be valuable as final conclusions were drawn.

Finally, the consultant team extends a thank you to the citizens and staff from various agencies and non-profit organizations who took the time to attend meetings, write letters, and make phone calls so that we could understand the issues first hand and find solutions that seemed reasonable and workable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB-Sch', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jeff Schoenbauer, Principal-in-Charge
Project Manager

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

District 1 - Joseph A. Harris
 District 4 - Nancy Schouweiler
 District 7 - Willis E. Branning

District 2 - Kathleen A. Gaylord
 District 5 - Michael E. Turner

District 3 - Patrice Bataglia
 District 6 - Paul J. Krause

Dakota County Park and Recreation Advisory Committee

District 1 - Dennis J. O'Melia
 District 4 - Laura Hedlund
 District 7 - Blake Crandall

District 2 - Sally Spreeman
 District 5 - Charles VanGuilder

District 3 - Liz Witt
 District 6 - Clay A. Van De Bogart

Cultural – Ecological Charrette Participants

Jay Riggs, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Tom Lewanski, Friends of the Mississippi River
 Michael McDonough, Metropolitan Council
 Hannah Dunevitz, MN Department of Natural Resources - Ecological Services
 Joan Galli, MN Department of Natural Resources - Non-Game Wildlife
 Mike Davis, MN Department of Natural Resources - Lake City Office
 Mark Dudzik, MN State Archeologist
 John Anfinson, National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
 Susan Overson, National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
 Craig Wills, Prairie Island Mdewakanton Community
 Ed Fleming, Science Museum of MN
 Dick Darsow, local historian and area resident
 Ken Klink, local historian and area resident
 Dennis O'Melia, Dakota County PARAC
 Liz Witt, Dakota County PARAC

Planning Charrette Participants

Marty McNamara, Hastings Parks and Recreation Director
 Michael McDonough, Metropolitan Council
 Barb Schmidt, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
 Suzann Willhite, MN Department of Natural Resources - Trails and Waterways
 Carol Zoff, MN Department of Transportation
 Susan Overson, National Park Service – Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
 Dan Schultz, Rosemount Parks and Recreation Director
 Dennis O'Melia, Dakota County PARAC
 Liz Witt, Dakota County PARAC

Project Management Team

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Dr. Orrin Shane, Science Museum of Minnesota
 Rebecca Snyder, Dakota County Historical Society
 Ken Klink, Spring Lake area resident and historian
 Leslie Guelcher, Nininger resident and historian, for her excellent history of Nininger Township and city, "The History of Nininger...More Than Just a Dream".

This master plan recognizes the efforts of Gunnar Isberg, who as Dakota County's Planning Director in the 1970's was instrumental in securing Spring Lake Park Reserve as a Dakota County park.

This master plan also recognizes the efforts of Allan Moe, who as Dakota County's Planning Director in the early 1980's, led the way in preparing the first master plan for Spring Lake Park Reserve.

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